THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government are aware of press reports regarding remarks made by the US Consul General in Calcutta during an address to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry on June 3, 1994. Government have noted the clarification issued by the US Consul General in Calcutta on June 6, 1994 stating that he 'categorically did not criticise the Government of West Bengal or any of its officials".

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Diplomatic personnel in US and Indian Embassies

1129. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diplomatic personnel as on June 30, 1994 the United States of America has been permitted to maintain its embassy and consulates, and whether this number exceeds the number of personnel our embassy and consular officers are permitted to maintain the United States;

(b) what is the number of Indian personnel recruited locally who are employed by the US embassy and consular offices; and

(c) whether the terms and conditions of such locally recruited personnel are subject to Indian labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) 136. Yes, Sir.

(b) 726.

(c) Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 Diplomatic Missions are expected to respect the local laws and regulations of the host country. In 1975, and subsequently in 1988 all foreign diplomatic missions in India were provided with a copy of a Model Contract which contained the terms and conditions of employment which the diplomatic missions might enter into with their Indian employees in order to ensure that both sides were aware of their rights and obligations. However,, the terms and conditions mentioned in the Model Contract are suggestive in nature and the Missions are at liberty to offer enhanced benefits if they do desire.

Discontent in the ICCR

1130. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing discontent in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations; and

(b) whether any move to set right the situation has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

विदेशों में सांस्कृतिक-केन्द्रों की स्थापना

1131. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत-सरकार ने विदेशों में किन-किन स्थानों पर सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोले हैं और सरकार किन-किन देशों में नए सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) विदेशों में किन-किन स्थानों पर हिन्दी-परीक्षायें आयोजित की जा रही हैं और भारत सरकार ने किन-किन स्थानों पर हिन्दी के अध्यापन हेतु प्राध्यापक भेजे हैं ;

(ग) विदेशों में हिन्दी-प्राध्यापकों के ऐसे कितने पद रिक्त थे जिन्हें भरा जाना था, परन्तु उन्हें अभी तक नहीं भरा गया है और ऐसे पद कब से रिक्त हैं; और

(घ) सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् ने निम्नलिखित देशों में सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोले हैं : जार्जटाउन (गयाना), पारामारिबो (सूरीनाम), पोर्ट लुई (मारीशस), जकार्ता (इन्डोनेशिया मास्को (रूस), बर्लिन (जर्मनी), काहिरा (मिस्र), लन्दन (यू०के०), ताशकन्द (उजबेकिस्तान), और अल्माती (कजाकस्तान),

वित्तीय कठिनाइयों की वजह से नये सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव अभी विचाराधीन नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) परिषद् सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत हिन्दी पढ़ाने के लिए विदेशों में विश्वविद्यालयों और संस्थाओं में अतिथि प्राध्यापक भेजता है।

इसके अलावा, यह परिषद् मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (शिक्षा विभाग) की ओर से विदेशों में हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार का काम भी देखता है।

जार्जटाउन, पारामारिबो और पोर्ट ऑफ स्पेन में चार प्रोफेसर नियुक्त किए गए हैं। परीक्षायें सम्बद्ध विश्वविद्यालयों और संस्थाओं द्वारा ली जाती हैं। हिन्दी प्रोफेसरों का ब्यौरा नीचे लिखे अनुसार है :

(1) विश्वविद्यालयों/संस्थाओं को सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत भेजे गए प्रोफेसर बेलजियम, बल्गारिया, चीन, फिनलैण्ड, पौलैण्ड (2 प्रोफेसर) रूस, दक्षिण कोरिया, हंगरी टर्की और रोमानिया।

(2) विदेशों में हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार के अन्तर्गत गयाना, सूरीनाम, ट्रिनिडाड एवं टोबागो (2 प्रोफेसर)।

कार्यकाल समाप्त होने पर ये सभी पद तात्कालिक आधार पर भरे जा रहे हैं जिससे कि पाठ्यक्रम की निरन्तरता बनी रहे।

Achievements of ICCR

1132. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR);

(b) if so, what are the details of its activities during each of the last three years;

(c) what improvements have so far been made in its functioning;

(d) the number of festivals or cultural functions held abroad by ICCR or in which ICCR participated during each of the three years and what are their details and the amount of expenditure incurred on each of these festivals/functions;

(e) to what extent ICCR has been successful to identify and market Indian culture and art abroad and what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what are the details of festivals/functions proposed to be organised during the current year and the names of places and countries where these are likely to be held and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SAARC Finance Ministers' meeting

1133. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mutual mistrust and varying security perceptions among the SAARC member countries figured at the SAARC Finance Ministers' Meeting held in Dhaka last month primarily to deal with economic issues;

(b) if so, how far this mistrust is blocking SAARC growth particularly the